

Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 5-13-14
USFS Conf. Room (7-9 PM) 100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members/Liaisons Present

*Mike Allnutt
Deb Alpe
Mike Alpe
*Jimmer Baller
*Kent Crowder
*Blaine Evans
*Tom Hackleman
Debbi Heeney
*Randy Miller
*John Rich
*Rick Wyatt
Hunter Townsend
*Barbara Vasquez
*Doug Waldron
*Ty Wattenberg

Members/Liaisons Absent

Paula Belcher
Jason Brey
*Mike Honholz
Ann Timberman
*Carl Trick II

Others Present

Jodie Bickel
Russ Gross (State Forest)
Greg Johnson (Wilson Water Group)
Erin Light (Div.6)
Wendy Ryan (Colorado Climate Center)
Matt Schuler
Cade Waldron

I. Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted as published.

II. Approval of Roundtable Minutes: 3/25/14 Meetings

Minutes for the 3/25/14 meeting, with the typo correction noted by Rick Wyatt (CWU→CSU) were approved unanimously by the RT.

III. Election of Chairperson, Vic Chairperson and Recorder - *This March 25, 2014 meeting will also serve as the annual meeting that has to be held prior to April 1 of each year for the election of officers*

Kent reminded us that the election of officers had been delayed from the March meeting. Nominations from the floor were opened for Chair. Rick W nominated Kent Crowder to continue as Chair for the coming year. There were no other nominations from the floor. Continuation of Rick as Vice Chair and Barbara as Recorder were also met without opposing nominations. The slate of officers for 2014-2015 was approved unanimously.

IV. North Platte Basin Implementation Plan Progress Update - Greg Johnson, Wilson Water Group

Greg explained the 'final final' BIP is due the end of July, with a report to the CWCB at their

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meeting in mid-July. The June 5 coordination meeting for the basins consultants was cancelled as being too late to be useful. The Non-consumptive workshop was held right after the coordination meeting. The non-consumptive gap update was presented and discussed.

The BIP for the North Platte Basin is organized in 5 sections, streamlining the structure compared to the original outline proposed by CWCB. See the pdf of Greg's presentation for details of the organizational structure as well as the updates from the March draft. For further detail, see the pdf version of the actual draft BIP prepared for this meeting, which was sent out previously to the NPBRT distribution list.

Kent asked how this structure compare to that used by other Basins. Greg explained that, as consultant for the Gunnison Basin, they are using it there as well. And it's been discussed at length with and OKed by Becky Mitchell and Jacob Bornstein at CWCB.

Kent asked about the timing for the draft. Greg responded with the following list of dates/objectives:

- June 13: Draft BIP emailed
- June 24: Next NPBRT
- June 30: Deadline for edits/comments
- July 16-17: Draft NPBIP presented at CWCB Meeting
- July 31: Final draft BIP delivered to CWCB

Ty strongly suggested we have a meeting in June prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to allow more time for review/discussion of the draft BIP. It was finally agreed that a special meeting would be held on June 17 with the only purpose to review/discuss the draft BIP.

Greg commented that the CWCB was looking for each basin to focus on multipurpose, strategic projects for implementation. He also explained that many basins are listing projects that would be valuable for the basin even in the absence of sponsors or concrete plans to execute the projects in the short-term. Ty commented that the WSRA funding structure will stay the same with focus on multipurpose projects. He also suggested that through the BIPs, better public/private partnerships might be leveraged. He thought there might be some legislation considered in the near future to help with bringing additional funding to such projects.

Greg walked through updates to the consumptive and non-consumptive project lists. The weighted nonconsumptive 'heat map' was generated using the first 9 of the 12 originally prioritized NC attributed. The list of potential future reservoir expansion/creation projects was shown and discussed. Both Meadow Creek Res enlargement (probable flooding of adjacent private homes) and Big Creek Lake enlargement (flooding of USFS campgrounds) were questioned. Kent asked Erin whether a water right was ever filed for enlargement of Big Creek lake. Erin said she'd get back to us on that question, but later in the meeting was able to clarify that there was currently 6900af on record and 5500af abandoned, which had not been successfully contested. She also explained that Water Court had delayed the Independence Ditch water right, which had been on the partial abandonment and the owner (Silver Spur) given a year to demonstrate the full beneficial use of the 95cfs. Erin gave a presentation to the JCWCD on DWR protocols for irrigation and storage season. Drafts of Div of Water Resource Protocols for irrigated acreage,

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irrigation season and irrigation storage are in progress. There was outreach the first week in March to water right owners in the North Platte Basin. Corrections to irrigated acreage (~1500 acres under 12 ditches) and some other small corrections were being used to update the basin records.

V. Update on Weather Station EP Study and Future Operation of Stations and Program –

Wendy Ryan, Research Associate in Atmospheric Science, C.S.U.

A copy of Wendy's presentation is included with these minutes. The contract for this project was signed March, 2009 and will expire July, 2014. Weather data was collected for 5 years for three sites in the basin: Cowdrey, Hebron and Larand. This data is quite useful to the Climate Center, to JCWCD and local ranchers. However, because of problems with the lysimeters, the primary goal of the project, calculation of the crop coefficient for high altitude North Park grass hay, won't be achieved. The Climate Center is interested in continuing the project with additional equipment (different type of lysimeter) in the North Platte Basin and will be bringing a grant application for a follow-on project to the RT soon.

VI. Public Education, Participation and Outreach Update and discussion of Outreach efforts to be undertaken after July 2014 – Deb Alpe, Education Liaison

Deb passed out copies of the final "North Platt Basin Implementation Plan Sheet" and the BIP Outreach Report, both of which are included with these minutes. Deb indicated that the deadline to spend the funds allocated for Education and Outreach is June 30. She will get the Education Committee together to think how to best use the funds to achieve our outreach goals with respect to the BIP.

VII. CWCB/IBCC Update - Ty Wattenberg, John Rich and Mike Allnutt

CWCB: Ty Wattenberg Said the next CWCB meeting should be lively as it will include a water quality component. The Water Quality Control Commission will be addressing old mine sites and specific agriculture projects.

IBCC: Mike was unable to attend. John said there was a long discussion of a document laying out 8 points that together could constitute the basis for future agreement on new water supply (trans-basin diversion) projects between the East and West Slope basins. Kent said he'd provide a copy of the latest draft, which has been discussed in 'all chair' meetings.

VIII. Old Business/New Business
Old Business

New Business - None

VIII. Date for the next meeting

Date for the next two meetings was set with the primary goal of reviewing and approving the draft North Platte Basin Implementation Plan: Tue, June 17 and Tue, June 24 (both 7-9p.m.) to be held in the FS Conference Room at 100 Main Street, Walden.